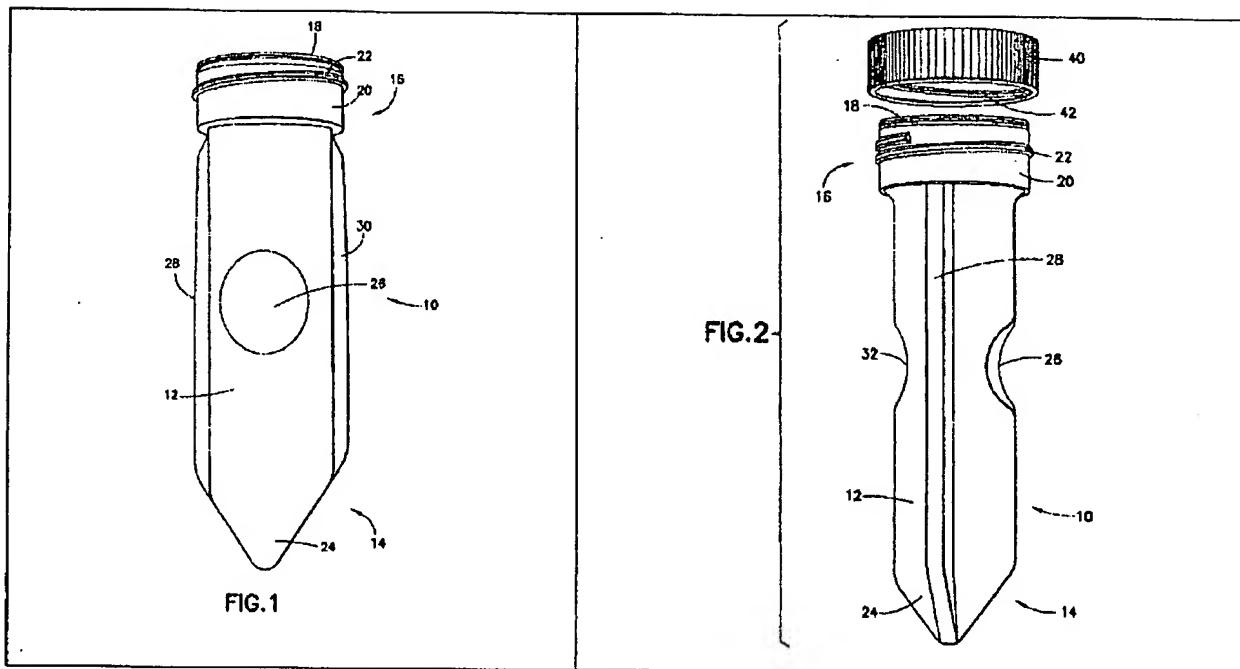


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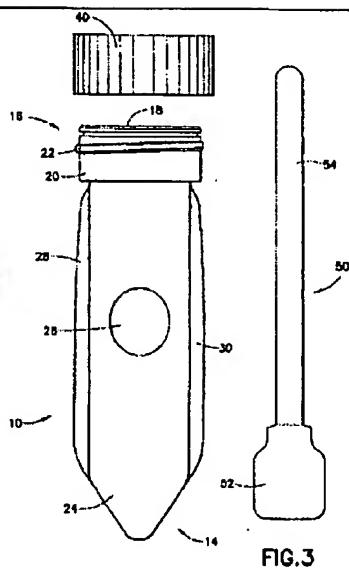


FIG.3

FIG.4

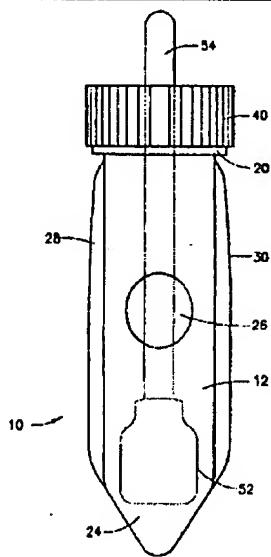
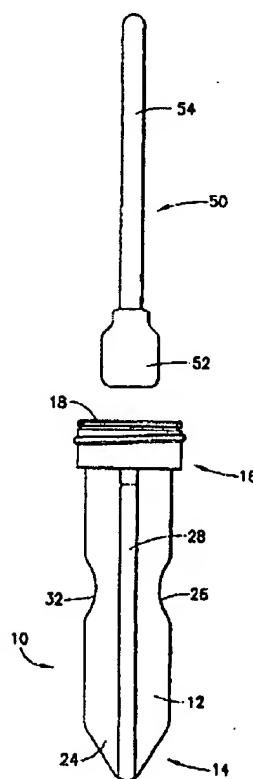
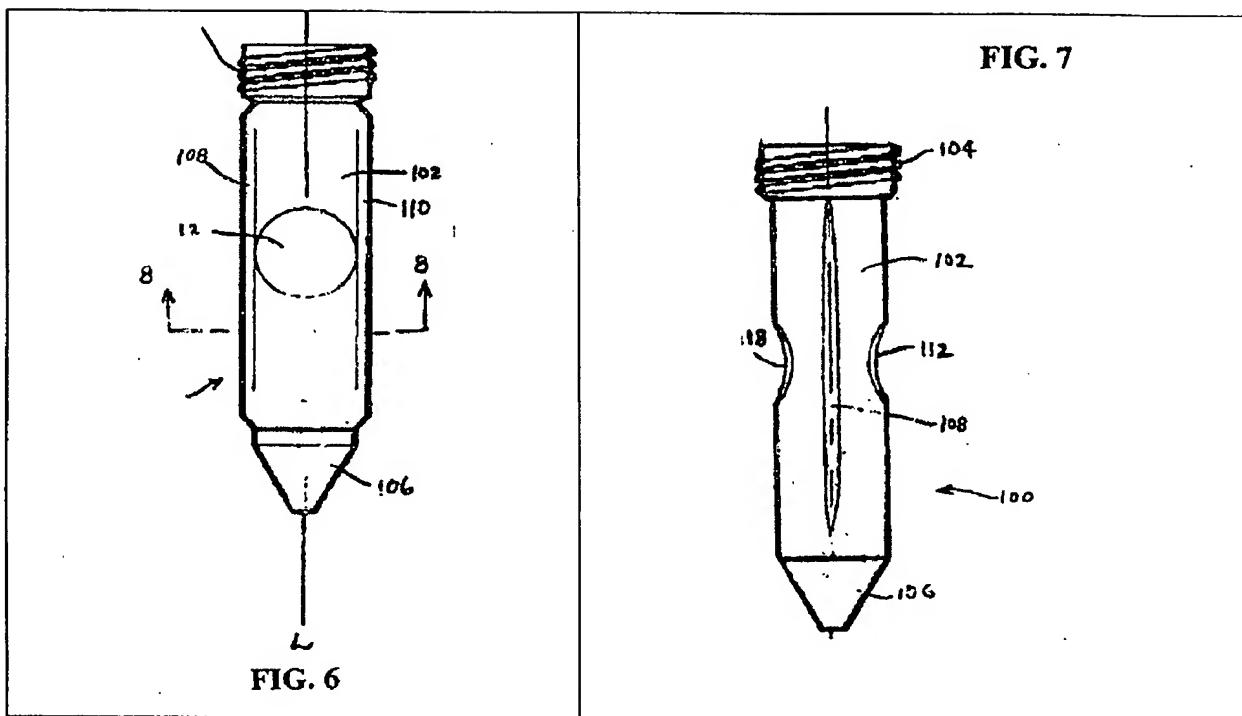


FIG.5



In each instance, the open proximal end portion (e.g., portions 20, 104 defining opening 18) is illustrated as being as least as large or larger in outer diameter as the body of the associated tube 10, 100 – and each tube has a reduced diameter portion along depressions 26, 112, 118. To correlate such outer diameter with an inner diameter or cross-sectional area, it is noted that the specification refers to each centrifuge tube as having a singular wall thickness. See, e.g., page 11, first paragraph, (referring to “[t]he wall thickness of the centrifuge tube” and indicating that “[t]he centrifuge tube may have a wall thickness that is greater than 5 mils (.005 inch) in thickness”)(emphasis added.) Nothing in the instant application suggests, to one of ordinary skill in the art, any variation in wall thickness of the proximal end portion relative to the remainder of the body of the centrifuge tube. Shah Declaration, ¶ 9.

Furthermore, the specification indicates that the centrifuge tubes of the invention are fabricated by “extrusion blow molding⁵ or rotational molding⁶.” Application, page 4, fourth paragraph and

⁵ An overview of extrusion blow molding is available at the following URL: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blow_molding, as reproduced in pertinent part below.